

### PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

### **2010 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE**

The new Ecclesiastical Calendars for 2010 have arrived. **They will be available on Sundays following Divine Liturgy at a table in the Founders Hall.** You may pick up **ONE** calendar per family in order to make certain that every family in the parish has one. These useful calendars contain all the feast days for the year as well as the daily Scripture readings. Get yours now!

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS** Elections will be held **TODAY**, in the Founders' Hall from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. We will fill nine (9) vacancies for the period of January 2010 through December 2011.

**FEED THE HUNGRY** is in need of drivers and cooks to deliver and prepare food for the local shelters **THE NEXT FEED THE HUNGRY SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 20th.** Contact is Peggy Hackman \* 301-340-6027 \* or email her at [hackmans@comcast.net](mailto:hackmans@comcast.net)

**CHALLENGE LITURGY**The next Challenge Liturgy is: Saturday Dec.19<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. Join us to experience the warmth of God's love for us all this Nativity Season. The Challenge Liturgy is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month, unless otherwise announced. Join us for the fellowship following Liturgy. The intellectually and physically challenged are an important part of our community. For more information or to volunteer, contact Amalia Kent (301)-762-8976) or Marcia Williams at [sunnycity4u@yahoo.com](mailto:sunnycity4u@yahoo.com)

**FIFTY PLUS** Wishing all the members of the Fifty Plus Club and the community of St George a very blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year. The first meeting of the New Year will be January 13, 2010 in the Founders Hall at 11:30am with the cutting of the Vasilopita

**HELPING OUR SISTER PARISH IN TAYBEH** Once again our Sunday School is reaching out to our sister parish, St. George, in Taybeh, Palestine Help educate and warm the lives of children attending their Orthodox School. Your Christmas donation will help pay for student tuition fees and electricity for the school. Forms for donating are available on the table outside the Church Office or see Athena Kranias.

### **ST. GEORGE'S BOOKSTORE: A GREAT PLACE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS!**

Why not give an icon or a spiritual book this Christmas to commemorate the REAL meaning of the season?

Our bookstore has a good selection as well as other religious items and books on Greek tradition and culture.

**MAKE SURE YOU STOP BY THE BOOKSTORE AFTER DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY**



# **THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE**

## **SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS**

DECEMBER 13, 2009



### **THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE**

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Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides, Emeritus



On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law. Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

**EPISTLE Colossians 3:4-11**

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

**TODAY'S READER: MICHAEL KITSOULIS**

**GOSPEL Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14**

THE LORD SAID this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

**FROM A HYMN ON THE NATIVITY BY ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN**

This night belongs to the sweet One; bitter or harsh be in it none! In this night that is the meek One's, high or haughty be in it none! In this day of pardoning let us not exact trespasses! In this day of gladness let us not spread sadnesses! In this day so sweet, let us not be harsh! In this day of peaceful rest, let us not be wrathful in it! In this day in which there came the Lord of all unto the servants, let masters too condescend to their servants lovingly! In this day in which the Rich became poor for our sakes, let the rich man make the poor man share with him at his table. On this day to us came forth the Gift, although we asked it not! Let us therefore bestow alms on them that cry and beg of us. Today the Lord of nature was against His nature changed; let it not to us be irksome to turn our evil wills. Today Godhead sealed itself upon Manhood, that so with the Godhead's stamp Manhood might be adorned.



**THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST:  
EXPECT A MIRACLE**

On the night the Lord Jesus was born no one could see that a miracle was about to happen, God was at work bringing about the plans he had set in motion centuries before. Of course, God had spoken about what would happen through the prophets; and the people had the words of the prophets written in scripture. And Mary and Joseph had heard God's plan from the angels. They had been told that something miraculous was about to happen. But to the naked eye there was nothing special about that night—the night when God did the most miraculous thing imaginable: he became a man. And if that night looked like any other, then isn't it possible that God is "up to something" right now, and we are not even aware of it? We have God's promises in scripture. We know God's love for us. We know that because of his great love he is continually working to accomplish his purposes and bring about his kingdom. So, we must recognize that every moment is pregnant with the possibility of the miraculous! We must allow Christmas to remind us that regardless of our circumstances, we are to live expecting God to amaze us. Peel aside the trappings of Christmas and focus on the possibility that God is trying to effect some miracle in YOUR life -- a change of attitude, the breaking of a long-standing habit, the healing of an illness, consolation in discouragement, hope when all seems bleak, or the repair of a fractured relationship. Perhaps the miracle God has in store for you is the rekindling of your Orthodox faith which has grown stale or even cold; or the resolution of a problem with your children. The birth of the Lord Jesus tells us to expect a miracle in our lives—great or small, obvious or unseen. Use these final days of preparation to meditate on the miracle God may have for you. *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, unto ages of ages! Amen.* (Ephesians 3)

**PRAYER LIST:** Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Saxton, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Thomas Jenkins, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Artie Constantinides, Stephanie Skanderis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Lt. Mikael Johnson, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy.

**MEMORIALS**

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Presvytera Dimitra Karambela (6 Months)**, beloved mother of Eleni (Harry) Marinos, and grandmother of Litsa, Nicholas, and Yianna; and for **George James Calomiris (21 Years)** beloved husband of Penelope, father of James G. Calomiris and Carol (G. William) Edmunds, and grandfather of Nicole and Victoria Edmunds. May their memory be eternal!



**HELP US COMPLETE OUR  
FEAST DAY  
ICON COLLECTION**

We are in need of a number of icons of major feast days that we currently do not have in our collection. The icons are: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, St. Bartholomew, Sunday of the Blind Man, The Prodigal Son, The Publican and the Pharisee, St. Cosmas of Aitolia, the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, and an icon of the Panagia Portaitissa. We are looking for donors who would give \$50 to purchase one of these large format icons. The donation could be made in memory of a loved one who would be remembered particularly on the feast day represented in the icon. Please consider helping us complete our collection of Holy Icons. Contact Chrysostomos in the Church Office at (301) 469-7990.

*"Now God comes to thee, not as in the dawning of the day, not as in the bud of the spring, but as the Sun at noon to illustrate all shadows, as the sheaves in harvest, to fill all penuries, all occasions invite his mercies, and all times are his seasons."*

John Donne, Christmas Sermon #80